
Combined Arms Training Strategy

By Matthew A. Richards

Throughout history, the Army has used a variety of animals in support of military operations. Horses and mules carried soldiers and pulled equipment such as artillery and ammunition, birds were used to detect dangerous chemicals and carry messages, and dogs were and still are used to detect enemy personnel, narcotics, and explosives. Now the Army is using the CATS to support training. That's right, "CATS!" When you think of a cat, you might envision a silent hunter stalking its prey. Like the cat, the CATS is also a silent—almost unknown but readily available—training tool.

What is the CATS?

The Combined Arms Training Strategy (CATS) is the Army's overarching strategy for planning, resourcing, and executing short- and long-range individual and collective training. Training strategies are the result of a multiyear effort sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Training, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Unit commanders and staffs are the primary audience of the CATS; however, all leaders can use its components to integrate individual and collective training. Army Training and Evaluation Program mission training plan collective tasks are the foundation of the CATS.

How Will the CATS Benefit a Unit?

The CATS integrates the appropriate training resources for heavy, light, and special operations forces. The CATS is a flexible system that does not limit leaders but rather provides them with a menu of training tasks, events, and resources to plan and manage training. A variety of links takes the user directly to applicable supporting individual and collective tasks. This decreases the need to sort through training materials used to develop training plans, schedules, and resource cost estimations (such as fuel and ammunition).

The CATS is the foundation of the unit-oriented training strategy used by the Standard Army Training System (SATS). The CATS and SATS assist trainers in designing military training programs, determining unit readiness, planning mobilizations, and developing training budgets. The CATS organizes tasks and provides descriptive training options for commanders. It describes one way of organizing

task-based, multiechelon training into a set of events that will achieve and maintain a high state of readiness in today's environment of high personnel turbulence and leader turnover.

Commanders are the primary training managers and trainers of their organizations. Field Manual 7-0, *Training the Force*, requires the commander to—

- Be present at training to the maximum extent possible.
- Base training on mission requirements.
- Train to applicable Army standards.
- Assess current levels of proficiency.
- Provide the required resources.
- Develop and execute training plans that result in proficient individuals, leaders, and units.

The CATS provides the tools for commanders to carry out this guidance. The essence of training is to develop and maintain proficiency in the execution of mission-essential tasks. The CATS emphasizes that commanders measure combined arms proficiency against a clear standard. To obtain a valid assessment, units must periodically train under rigorous, realistic conditions designed to challenge.

Is There a CATS for Every Unit?

CATSs are developed using individual tables of organization and equipment (TO&Es). Currently, 16 CATSs have been developed for military police units (see table on page 57).

How Can Units Access a CATS?

Commanders can access a CATS via the Reimer Digital Library or Army Knowledge Online (AKO). The CATS can be used as is or saved as a Microsoft®

Word document and modified to meet specific unit training requirements and conditions. A CATS can also be accessed via the SATS but in a less user-friendly format and without links to items such as mission training plans and supporting tasks. To access a CATS through—

- **The Reimer Digital Library.** Go to *<http://www.adtdl.army.mil>*. Select *Enter the Library*, and go to *Commandant-Approved Individual and Collective Training Support Materials*.

Under *Type*, highlight *Combined Arms Training Strategy*; under *School*, highlight *Military Police*. Select *Submit*. Access to the CATS site is restricted, so you must obtain access permission by selecting a CATS document number and then *Cancel* at the password screen. Follow the screen directions from that point to gain access. You may also access a CATS via *<http://atiam.train.army.mil/portal>*. Select *Login* on the top right of the screen, and provide your AKO account

CATSs for Military Police Units

TO&E	Unit Type	Date Developed
CATS 19333F000 (T1)	Military Police Company (Heavy Division)	10 May 2002
CATS 19476L000 (T1)	Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment Military Police Battalion	12 July 2001
CATS 19477L000 (T1)	Military Police Company (Combat Support)	8 May 2001
CATS 19546A000 (T1)	Headquarters, Headquarters Company Military Police Battalion (Internment/Resettlement)	12 July 2001
CATS 19546A000 (T2)	Headquarters, Headquarters Company Military Police Battalion (Internment/Resettlement)	12 July 2001
CATS 19547AA00 (T1)	Military Police Detachment Internment/Resettlement Information Center	12 July 2001
CATS 19547AA00 (T2)	Military Police Detachment Internment/Resettlement Information Center	12 July 2001
CATS 19547AA00 (T3)	Military Police Detachment Internment/Resettlement Information Center	12 July 2001
CATS 19547AB00 (T1)	Military Police Detachment (Internment/Resettlement) (Enemy Prisoner of War/Civilian Internee)	12 July 2001
CATS 19547AB00 (T2)	Military Police Detachment (Internment/Resettlement) (Enemy Prisoner of War/Civilian Internee)	12 July 2001
CATS 19643L000 (T1)	Military Police Detachment Internment/Resettlement Information Center	13 July 2001
CATS 19643L000 (T2)	Military Police Detachment Internment/Resettlement Information Center	13 July 2001
CATS 19647L000 (T1)	Military Police Escort Guard Company	17 July 2001
CATS 19647L000 (T2)	Military Police Escort Guard Company	17 July 2001
CATS 19667L000 (T1)	Military Police Escort Guard Company	18 July 2001
CATS 19667L000 (T2)	Military Police Escort Guard Company	18 July 2001
Due to the large number of units and the ability to share tasks, there will not be a CATS developed for each individual TO&E. For example, CATS 19477L000 (T1) can be shared by the following TO&Es: 19313L, 19333L, 19333F, 19343L, 19477L, and 19677L.		

information. Select the *RDL Services* tab. Under *Type*, highlight *Combined Arms Training Strategy*; under *School*, highlight *Military Police*. Select *Submit*. Scroll down the screen and locate and select the desired CATS document number.

- **Army Knowledge Online.** Go to <www.us.army.mil/portal/portal_home.jhtml>. Sign in to the system using your established AKO login and password. Select *MACOMS* on the bottom left of the screen, and then scroll down and select *TRADOC* to bring up the *TRADOC Community Page*. Click on the *More* drop-down arrow above the photo of General Byrnes, and locate and select *CATS*. This will bring up the *CATS Community Page*. Select *Go to the CATS Knowledge Centers*. This will bring up a screen that shows subscribed and unsubscribed communities. If you

are unsubscribed, check the box to the left of CATS. When you do this, the toolbar on the top of your screen will change. Select *Subscribe*. You should receive a notification-of-approval message. Select *Finish* to close out the page. Select the CATS icon, scroll down, check the box for *Military Police*, and click on *Military Police*. Locate the desired CATS, and click on the TO&E number. At the file download screen, select *SAVE*. This will download the CATS into a flat Word document without the additional links.

Is Training Available?

Training on the CATSs will be incorporated in Officer and Noncommissioned Officer Education Systems at the Military Police School in the near future.